AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11, as follows:

A directional coupler is a well known four port element for radio frequency equipment. This device allows a sample of a radio or microwave frequency signal, which is provided to an input port and received at an output port, to be extracted from the input signal. Properly designed, the directional coupler can distinguish between a signal provided to the input port and a signal provided to the output port. This characteristic is of particular use in a radio frequency transmitter in which both the transmitted signal and a signal reflected from a mismatched antenna can be independently monitored. To obtain such performance, directivity of the coupler should be very high. Directivity of the coupler is high if so called "compensation conditions" are fulfilled. There are two compensation conditions, assuming validity of quasi-static approximation: 1) the capacitive and inductive coupling coefficients are equal, and 2) the coupler is terminated with the proper impedances (preferably 50 Ohms) – for more details see for instance: K. Sachse, A. Sawicki, Quasi-ideal multilayer two- and three-strip directional couplers for monolithic and hybrid MICs, IEEE Trans. MTT, vol. 47, No. 9, Sept. 1999, pp. 1873 – 1882. Definitions of the coupling coefficients and effective dielectric constants used in the Detailed Description can be found in: K. Sachse, The scattering parameters and directional coupler analysis of characteristically terminated asymmetric coupled transmission lines in an inhomogeneous medium, IEEE Trans. MTT, vol. 38, No. 4, April 1990, pp. 417-425, eq. (2), and the caption of Fig. 7 therein.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 27, as follows:

Directional couplers intended to be used as monitors of transmitted power or power reflected from an antenna should have weak couplings (coupling of -30 to -40 dB) and high directivity (at least 20 dB). It is a ~~very~~ known property of directional couplers that directivity is lower for weakly coupled lines than for tightly coupled ones. Therefore, couplers having a weak coupling are difficult to make so that they are compensated. The article mentioned above by K. Sachse and A. Sawicki describes couplers that are suitable for tight couplings, in the region of –3 dB to –8 dB, corresponding to coupling levels of 0.7 to 0.4. However, weak couplings under compensation conditions can not be obtained with the configurations in the article.

Please amend the heading beginning at page 7, line 12, as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF NON-LIMITING EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 16, as follows:

In the first conductive layer 4, second conductive layer 5, third conductive layer 6 and fourth ~~7~~ conductive layer 7, a respective first ground plane 10, 10', second ground plane 11, 11', third ground plane 12, 12' and fourth ground plane 13 are formed. The fourth ground plane 13 is also referred to as a lower ground plane 13. The first ground plane 10, 10', second ground plane 11, 11', and third ground plane 12, 12' ground plane each include a first region 10, 11, 12, and a second region, 10', 11', 12', which are, in a direction parallel to the ground planes and perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the coupled lines 8, 9, located on opposite sides of the first line 8.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8, as follows:

The first region of the second ground plane 12, which is located on the same side of the first line 8 as the first region of the second ground plane 11, is located at a distance 18 from the second line 9. The first region of the first ground plane 10, second ground plane 11, and third ~~12~~ ground plane 12 and the lower ground plane 13 are connected by means of a plurality of via holes 19 placed along a line parallel to the coupled lines 8 and 9.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 19, as follows:

As can be seen in fig. 3, the tuning ground plane 11 is located between the first line 8 and the second line 9[[,]] in a direction that is perpendicular to the first line 8 and the second line 9~~ground planes, between the first 8 and the second line 9~~. The first line 8 and the tuning ground plane 11, formed in separate conductive layers, are located at a vertical distance from each other, which is approximately equal to the thickness of the first dielectric layer 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 5, as follows:

Fig. 5 shows a directional coupler according to a second embodiment~~ of the invention~~. The physical configuration of the second embodiment is similar to the first embodiment described with reference to fig. 3, except for the following. Differing from the first embodiment, the second line 9 is formed in the second conductive layer 5. Thus, in this embodiment, the vertical distance between the coupled lines is approximately equal to the thickness of the first dielectric layer 1. Further, differing from the denotation used with reference to fig. 3, in the third conductive layer 6, a second ground plane 11, 11' is formed, and in the second conductive layer 5, a third ground plane 12, 12' is formed. The second line 9 is, in a direction perpendicular to the

ground planes, located between the first line 8 and the first region of the second ground plane 11. The vertical distance between the first line 8 and the first region of the second ground plane 11 is approximately equal to the sum of the thicknesses of the first dielectric layer 1 and the second dielectric layer 2.